

REGIONAL CONSULTATION WITH PASTORALISTS AND LIVESTOCK BREEDERS ORGANIZATIONS IN PREPARATION OF THE FARMERS FORUM GLOBAL MEETING AT IFAD

ASIAN CONSULTATION, HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK, MONGOLIA, 25-26 JANUARY 2016

STATEMENT AND RECOMENDATIONS TO IFAD

The Importance of pastoralism and livestock development for the development of rural areas in the region

We, representatives of mobile pastoralists` communities and alliances from the **Asian region** including Inner, Greater, High, Central, South Asia and Russia, having met under minus / – 30 degrees in Mongolia, highlighting the unique characteristics and strategies of survival, resilience and adaptation of the nomadic tribes that have been lived and maintained their traditional knowledge preserving the fragile ecosystems of the planet for centuries, do herewith state as follows:

Customary or **traditional land tenure systems**, extensive land use and **production, mobility** or freedom of movement, **flexibility, adaptability** and **resilience** strategies are at the heart of pastoralism that provide vital response to unique ecological challenges and better solutions for more sustainable and equitable development.

Asia is extremely **vulnerable to climate change** due to its geographic location, vulnerable ecosystem, lifestyles and economy. Nomadic herders are particularly vulnerable to climate change. The livestock sector is an important contributor to climate change, through the production of **greenhouse gas emissions**.

Pastoralists are stewards of conserving rangeland biodiversity and protecting **ecosystem services**. The mobile pastoralism is an adaptive production strategy assuring the economic survival of hundreds of millions of people, as well as a way of life contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of nature.

Pastoral livelihoods are based on seasonal mobility and common property of natural resources (particularly rangelands), regulated by customary law and practices, customary institutions and leadership, all making use of local and **indigenous knowledge**. **Mobility** plays a key role in survival, especially when catastrophic events such as the droughts and snow occur. The mobility is central to pastoralists` identity and relationships.

Pastoralists are the key players in **securing food and sovereignty** and **reduction of poverty** through providing **quality milk and meat products as well as leather, hides, skin, bones and fibre** with organoleptic characteristics that are appreciated by consumers.

Pastoralism **contributes to country economy** providing raw materials for processing industry, export and international trade and **to family livelihoods** providing job opportunity, especially for women and youth.

Pastoralism has been preserved **traditional knowledge and intergenerational transmission** (transfer of knowledge and inherit it from elders to youth) and it is a global cultural heritage.

The indigenous knowledge of pastoralists about **medicinal plants** can help fighting against diseases on a sustained basis. The identified medicinal plants, by the pastoralists, can be gowned commercially which can provide employment as well as source of income for the marginalized mountain communities.

Pastoralists are **gene keepers** conserving **local breeds** and restoring **traditional herding practices**.

Pastoralism is essential for not only promoting cultural values but also providing alternative sources of livelihoods through **sustainable community based tourism** and limited quantity but **higher quality handicraft** productions.

Pastoralists are in **solidarity with one another**, regardless of distinctions of class, gender, religion, ethnicity, caste, nationality and culture as well as with other indigenous and farming communities. We commit ourselves to finding ways to solve conflicts over land and other natural resources with other communities. Furthermore, pastoralism supports agriculture and farmers in terms of manure system.

Pastoralism constitutes the **only possible livelihood in some (dryland) areas** where other forms of agricultural practices are impossible, thus it is the best utilization of natural resources. Pastoralists are the masters of their ancestral lands. Pastoralism is a **successful strategy** to support the marginalized population on less productive land, and **adapts well to the environment** as well as it is a source of livelihoods for the **marginalized mountain communities** of the world.

Lastly, pastoralism can produce **the maximum output with the minimum input**.

Despite the crucial contribution of nomadic and transhumant pastoralism to livelihoods and to national economies, and its role in preserving the fragile ecosystems of the planet, in many countries **we are not receiving the necessary direct attention and support**.

Pastoralists **do not enjoy equal rights** of access to education, health and other crucial services and facilities. They are **excluded from** fair access to and control of markets, information and knowledge that are necessary for their well-being and development, and are **marginalized in the political field**.

We are subject to **discrimination and social exclusion**. In some countries we are subject to **dispossession of natural resources, forced** or **induced sedentarisation** and **displacement**,

ensorship and violation of rights, and as a consequence of conflicts and adverse and ill-designed policies, legislation and development programmes.

Pastoralists have been increasingly vocal at the international level but, as women, their voices have still not yet to be fully heard. Pastoralist **women** have unique and equally valuable contributions to make to their own communities and the global community.

The main challenges of pastoralists are stemmed at recognizing land and natural resource rights, building equitable value chains and market access, empowering pastoralist institutions and systems through respect for indigenous knowledge and genetic diversity of breeds, cultural values of pastoralism and health benefits of pastoral products, enabling knowledge sharing and networking, ensuring **Free, Prior and Informed Consent** before all private and public initiatives that may affect the integrity of mobile indigenous peoples` customary territories, resource management systems and nature, and providing an appropriate policy support.

We call upon our brothers and sisters of all over the world to think what future we want there we need to agree how we move forward.

In doing so, based on the historical declarations of the world pastoralists including Dana /2002/, Segovia /2007/, Mera /2010/ and Kiserian /2013/ as well as Hustai /2015/ declaration that has recently been approved by the central and greater Asian pastoralists hereby we as Asian pastoralists propose and recommend to IFAD the following:

1) Priority areas for investments in pastoralism for pastoralists and livestock breeders and recommendations for the partnership with IFAD

- **INVEST** for IFAD itself to get **deeper understanding about pastoral societies, dynamics and economy before designing interventions** impacting on the reliance of dryland economies and livelihoods.
- **EMPOWER women and implement projects focus specifically on women`s role in pastoralism.** Women are guards of healthy food, healthy people, they transfer traditional knowledge. When people have enough food they will not fight. When there is no food, people fight with each other. Here women`s role is essential to build peace. Women are the ones who hold that peace.
- **PROVIDE social services** (education, **health**, insurance, emergency, access to credit and other services), adequate and appropriate health services and health education for nomadic communities, including mobile clinics and migratory frontline health workers, with special consideration for pregnant women and children
- **CARRY OUT training and learning programme for pastoralists** through mobile/ nomadic learning programme or **pastoralist field school** (to train pastoralists on leadership, community self-organization, market orientation, first aid-health, identifying pasture carrying capacity etc)
- **PROMOTE** education of children in mobile communities by providing mobile and boarding schools as required, using the indigenous or local languages, and **RESPECT** the dignity of mobile communities by incorporating in the teaching curricula elements of the local culture and indigenous knowledge;

- **DEVELOP strategies and mechanisms** to support pastoralists **to reduce the impact of droughts and climatic change**
- **SUPPORT projects on Community-based tourism** as an alternative income generation for the pastoralist women and **promote nomadic and indigenous art and crafts**
- **ESTABLISH primary raw material processing units in the rural areas** and **develop value chain /value added production**
- **ESTABLISH livestock fodder production units run by pastoralists** in the rural areas and exchange experience from each other
- **ENSURE** safeguard, protection and improvement of **local and indigenous breed`s** gene pool /i.e: yak, cattle, sheep, reindeer, Buryat breed etc/
- **INVEST in community-based conservation of traditional breeds and their animal genetic resources** as a viable strategy for climate change adaptation. **SUPPORT** a pilot project on restoration of endangered Buryat cow in Siberia (a breed developed by local pastoral communities, who employed their indigenous traditional knowledge of breeding and the local ecosystem to create an animal genetic resource that is perfectly adapted to its unique environment) as a collaborative effort of pastoralists communities, researchers and breeders NGOs
- **IMPROVE technology of milk and dairy product processing**, especially for women to lighten their labour load
- **IMPLEMENT a promotion programme for pastoralists**, especially for young pastoralists (due to the migration from rural to urban areas)
- **MANAGE pastoralist and livestock risks** through joint research and training with professional institutions, researchers and experts
- **ORGANIZE an exchange programme** between countries (i.e.: South South cooperation) in the region
- **IMPLEMENT livestock health programme** (i.e: prevention from parasites and release from parasites)
- **SUPPORT projects on reproduction of environment through planting** trees and shrubs and other plants in the specific condition such as in Gobi desert and protect from sand movement and cope with desertification (i.e: plants)
- **SUPPORT to use remote pastures** through building and repairing wells and irrigation and roads
- **SUPPORT to use solar and wind energy** to use underground water for pasture irrigation and other activities
- **ORGANIZE census and data collection** on pastoralists and livestock
- **PROVIDE transportation facility for pastoralists /women and children**, who move on feet (walking) for 200-2000 km during the migration from seasonal pastures
- **DOCUMENT** the information about medical plants species & indigenous knowledge of the Pastoralists;
- **RAISE** awareness among pastoral families about the importance of different varieties of medicinal plants both for biodiversity and income generation;
- **PROVIDE** technical support and seeds to pastoral communities for plantation of medicinal plants

- **BUILD** the capacity of pastoral communities on propagation, managing, harvesting and marketing of medicinal plants for income generation and biodiversity conservation and
- **ESTABLISH** market linkages of Pastoralists with local markets for selling of medicinal plants.

These initiatives will generate the following positive outcome:

- Contribute to the rural development
- Employment opportunity
- Livelihoods improvement
- Contribute to nature conservation and environmental protection
- Value of the raw materials will be increased in value chain development
- Pasture recovery and effective use of pasture, further supports alternative income generation activities

2) Priority areas for policy dialogue, advocacy and other policy initiatives in support of organizations of pastoralists and livestock herders. Recommendations for the partnership with IFAD

- We propose IFAD to develop a **guideline for indigenous pastoralist women** and make sure and enable their physical participation in the global debates and provide a chance to the women to speak and involve in decision making processes
- We propose IFAD to develop a special programme for **pastoralist youth** and give an opportunity to do **an internship and other technical advisory** work to the IFAD's work on pastoralism and indigenous peoples.
- **ENSURE** participation of pastoralists in the FAFO meetings and its Steering Committee
- **SET UP** Pastoralist Forum at IFAD and organize the forum once in every 2 years
- **RECOGNIZE and RESPECT** our customary laws, customary institutions and leadership, and our common property rights and customary governance and use of natural resources that we have managed sustainably by using them seasonally or as buffer zones in times of climatic and other disasters
- **PROMOTE** conditions and mechanisms for lasting peace and conflict resolution at all levels;
- **CORRECT** urgently government policies and plans favouring only sedentary populations with the full participation of concerned nomadic peoples, and **PROMOTE** policies and international legislation to facilitate cross-border mobility by pastoral and other nomadic peoples who have traditionally lived in more than one country, and facilitate free movement of herds respecting relevant safeguards where needed;
- **RESPECT** pastoralism and mobility as distinctive sources of cultural identity, integrity and rights;
- **ENABLE** adequate representation of pastoralists interests in legislature through quotas (ex. Afghanistan) [Voluntary guidelines on tenure...]
- **ENSURE** effective application of international instruments and mechanisms on protection of rights of indigenous pastoralist communities and alliances on the regional, national and local levels (Voluntary guidelines, bio-cultural protocols, UNDRIP...)
- **ENSURE** participation of decision-makers of all levels in the regional and global pastoralists meetings (through quotas if needed)

- **FACILITATE** exchange of best practices on leadership of pastoralists especially youth, women and elders through development of training modules, study tours and trainings with support of various IFAD programmes
- **IMPROVE** state control and accountability mechanism on professional veterinary services adapted to pastoralists
- **SUPPORT** local initiatives on revival of aboriginal livestock breeds and revival of traditional pasture management institutions
- **SUPPORT** a unified communication platform of pastoralist communities, publishing of information materials, bulletins, and newspapers, pastoralist knowledge hub website and online forum

3) How organizations of pastoralists and livestock herders can be associated at the different stages of IFAD business model – country strategy development, project design, projects implementation and supervision, and overall IFAD programme implementation

Local level:

- **STRENGTHEN** pastoral organization: capacity building in order to improve the collaboration with governments and IFAD (improve representation of pastoral organizations and their networks)
- **ENSURE** that pastoralist organizations are represented in the Country Programme Management Teams to enhance their participation in the formulation of Country Operational Strategy programmes and the process of designing, planning, implementation and supervision of country programmes and projects.
- **RECOGNIZE** the role of Pastoralist organizations by IFAD in providing feedback on the impacts of country programmes and projects implemented in pastoralist areas during projects implementation phase and programme/projects evaluations.
- IFAD supported projects must be **INFORMED** by Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) by pastoralist communities within proposed project areas to avoid projects that do not guarantee pastoralist safeguards – forced displacements, evictions, land use rights). - IFAD shall increase its financial support to pastoralist organizations and institutional building of pastoralist women organizations.
- **DESIGN** projects building on lessons learned and good practices identified from successful recognized projects implemented/designed by local organizations in identification phase
- **INVITE all stakeholders** at local level (research and academia, users, local authorities, ministries, NGOs/CSOs) in project design during the identification phase.
- **INVOLVE** beneficiaries (pastoral user groups and government) in evaluation and monitoring through participatory methods (equally responsible participation); improve mechanisms of knowledge sharing and exchange experiences of implemented projects
- **IMPROVE** coordination between donors/projects/technical partners (for instance, use the same SMART indicators and data, standardization)
- **ASSURE** better transparency and communication by IFAD among all stakeholders on all processes (COSOP, project identification, design, supervision, evaluation), including through mass media for herders

- **PROMOTE** multi-country approaches and programmes, in order to take into account transboundary issues: mobility routes, markets, diseases...etc.
- **ENSURE** pastoralist communities and cooperatives should be responsible of the sustainability of the project activities, infrastructures and further investments

Regional level:

- **EXCHANGE** experiences with other countries which have the same type of animal husbandry
- **ENSURE** participation of **regional pastoralist associations** in project design and the projects should be implemented through pastoralist associations

Global level:

- **INVOLVE** representatives of PACA (Pastoralist Assembly of Central and Greater Asia) in the steering committee of the Farmer Forum. This will help better identify and manage projects.
- **SET UP** Pastoralist Forum at IFAD with equal representation of women, youth and men as well as regional and country balance
- **ENSURE** equal participation of women and man in all levels of consultations and decision making processes. Voice and physical representation of pastoralist women in global debates, consultation and decision making and leadership of women and youth in pastoralism need to be recognized and realized.
- IFAD funded projects should be **ALIGNED** with national policies, strategies, etc.

In reference to the above all and with aims of better coordination, we as pastoralist representatives of Asia propose the following:

- Within the framework of **Pastoralist Knowledge Hub** in support of UNFAO the **Pastoralist Assembly of Central Asia /PACA/** should host a **Nomadic Center of Excellence in Mongolia** in the heart of Asia with respect to its neutrality and politically favorable country to jointly implement the above mentioned priority areas for the Asian pastoralists. In this regard, we propose that **IFAD is in a position to support and invest the proposed priority areas with specific attention to the role of women in pastoralism and empowerment of youth** under the sub activities to be implemented by the **Center of Excellence**.
- Furthermore, we as pastoralist representatives from Asia strongly propose the international organizations to pay very special attention on **yak-keeping communities in the high-mountain areas in Asia** for their livelihoods, urgent need for access to different levels of representation, consultations and decision making, given their greater vulnerability but also due to the crucial role they play in the custodianship of the largest headwater system in the world, key piece in the map of the current global environmental crisis. In this regard, we propose and recommend the IFAD, FAO, and other institutions to take this initiative into account and invest in strengthening of **the World Yak Herders Association** initiated and facilitated by YURTA Association, with the long experience of

collaboration on pastoralism (WAMIP, WISP, PACA, FAO), in partnership with PACA and other yak herding communities, organizations and institutions in Greater Central Asia.

We take this opportunity to convey our message to the **UNFAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub Secretariat** the following:

- We **SUGGEST** the FAO to strengthen its relationships with IFAD and other institutions in order to build synergy on the policies and activities to support the regional pastoralist networks
- We **PROPOSE** that FAO is in a good position to support the pastoralists through implementing Capacity building programme with specific focus on mobile or pastoralist field school programme
- We **CALL UPON** FAO to improve coordination and communication on the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub and liaise with the regions directly for any consultation, discussion and decision making that matters pastoralists

Furthermore, taking this opportunity to convey our message to **EBRD, World Bank, EU and other international institutions** on the following:

- We as Asian pastoralist representatives **PROPOSE** the institutions to support pastoralism through providing information on the opportunities to improve our livelihoods, giving financial and technical support on the needs that are under their priorities
- We **PROPOSE** the international institutions open a new line to support to the nomadic pastoralists

We also take this opportunity to convey our message to **the States** on the following:

- We as representatives of Asian pastoralists **CALL UPON** the member states to participate in national and regional consultations and listen to our voices
- We **CALL UPON** the member states to look at pastoralism as one of the most important and viable economic development strategies that keeps the cultural and historical identity of many nations

We, the pastoralist organizations of Asian region meeting at Hustai National Park, Mongolia on 24-26th of January 2016 are fully committed to pursue pastoralism as source of life, well-being, peace and contribution to environmental, social, economic and political significance and we can be of greatest service to the entire human community.

This statement and recommendation is the expression of our needs and priorities that need to be urgently taken into account. We wish it to be taken as a message of Asian pastoralist alliance to policy makers and international organizations to take action in our favour. We support the continuity of Pastoralist platform at IFAD and FAO and wish to contribute to them through this statement.



We will work together to participate in international policy making related to land and food production and wish to collaborate with international bodies whose purpose is to promote the integrity of livelihoods, cultures and nature including IFAD, FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, WHO, GEF, WORLD BANK, EBRD, EU, IUCN, VSF International and other international agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Organizations affiliated and joined this statement:

- Pastoralist Assembly of Central and Greater Asia (PACA)
- Mongolian Alliance of Nomadic Indigenous Peoples (MANIP), Mongolia
- Baikal Buryat Center for Indigenous Culture (BBCIC), Russia
- League of Pastoralist Peoples, Raika pastoralist community, Rajasthan, India
- Government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Food and Agriculture , Afghanistan
- Dutch Committee for Afghanistan, Kuchi Pastoralist Community, Afghanistan
- Sukhi Development Foundation, Pakistan
- Central Asian University and Central Asia Mountain Hub
- Yurta Association and World Yak Herders Association (WYHA), Nepal
- Federation of Arkhangai Yak Herders, Mongolia
- Khentii eastern region pastoralist cooperative, Mongolia
- Gobi desert and steppe camel herders cooperative, Mongolia
- Altai and Sayan mountain pastoralist movement, Mongolia
- Hustai National Park, Mongolia
- National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC), Mongolia
- Embassy of France in Mongolia
- Swiss Cooperation Agency and Green Gold Project
- UN FAO in Mongolia
- The Christensen Fund
- Association of Protecting Altai Cultural Heritage, Mongolia and Russia
- VSF International
- AVSF France
- AVSF Mongolia
- IFAD